

# 5 Mistakes Parents Make that Prevent Their Child's Learning



Discover your Child's Learning Needs  
to Unlock their Full Potential

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# 5 Mistakes Parents Make that Prevent Their Child's Learning

## 3 Things you will discover from this report

1. How trying to teach your child is like trying to be a 7 ft ballerina
2. How your support might actually be preventing your child from learning
3. How helping your child with homework is the worst thing you can do

The amount of time, money, and effort parents spend trying to support their child's education is staggering. And with good reason. Parents know that success in school leads to success in life. Students who graduate from College or University earn over \$1million more in their lifetime than those who don't and getting into college relies on doing well in school!

Because parents understand the fundamental difference that a good education will make to their child's entire life, they are committed to doing what they can to support their child's schooling. They know that their child needs their help to succeed. In fact research states that up to 80% of a child's success in school depends on what support parents offer.

But most parents do not know what help their child needs or how to provide the right support. It was during my 7 year research into how parents are supporting children's education that I uncovered this profound gap in support.

Parents are committed to supporting children's education but haven't been equipped to know how. In fact, many of the things parents are doing has an adverse effect on their child's success.

In this report you will discover the 5 Most Common Mistakes that parents make and tips on how to avoid them.

Thank you for caring about your child's education!

Dr. Patricia Porter

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## How to use this report

There are many mistakes parents make unknowingly in trying to support their children's success in school. This report focuses on the top 5 most common mistakes that can easily be detected and parents can prevent.

The list is compiled in a non-prioritized order. You may realize that you are making one or more of the mistakes listed here. Please do not feel guilty or upset. Just recognize that you are not alone, many other parents are doing the same thing and that you, and they are doing them unknowingly in your attempts to help your child and that you have only best intentions at heart.

For each common mistake described in this report I provide tips on how to avoid it. By adjusting your support to suit, you will find that your support quickly becomes more effective and efficient and stress levels surrounding helping your child are immediately reduced.

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## Mistake #1 - Being Someone You're Not

Imagine for a moment you are 7 feet tall. You love playing basketball and are a natural at throwing and catching a ball. Teaching your child basketball would be a slam-dunk. But what if someone said, "The real key to your child's success is to learn ballet!" Would you attempt to teach it to your child?

For many of you, maybe even most, this is exactly what is happening when it comes to helping your child to learn. You are sacrificing what you know best, which is being a parent by trying to do something you are not trained to do, which is attempting to help educate your child like a school teacher. You are willing to compromise your strengths by doing something you are not experienced to do.

Just as the 7 footer has a much better chance of teaching a child how to be a successful basketball player rather than a ballet dancer, you have a much better chance of helping your child when you use your parenting skills than any school-teaching skills.

Children need support from both, a caring teacher **and** a loving parent. And the type of support they need from a teacher is very different from the type of support they need from you. Don't use your energy trying to be something you are not. Stick to the role that you know best and let the professionals be the ones that teach your child the curriculum. This ensures the right support from the right sources to enable success.

### Leading to Learning Success Key

Don't attempt to do a teacher's job at home. Rather continue to give your child the type of support that only you can give. Then your child gets all they need from a caring teacher **AND** a loving parent.

### Leading to Learning Action Steps

Take these suggested actions to concentrate your support on ways that positively influence your child's education:

Make a list of all the ways that you already support your child's schooling. Include issues around:

- homework
- the amount of time you spend on helping your child learn
- the money you spent on additional learning resources

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- Review the list and cross off anything that your child's teacher could, or should, provide. Actions to cross off include:
  - telling your child how to solve a homework problem
  - helping your child plan a book report
  - constantly reminding your child to finish work
  - helping complete a project

Keep your shortened list to hand as you read the next sections of this report. The cleared space allows to add the activities that will really make a difference to your child's ability to learn.

## **Mistake #2 Thinking your child learns the way you do**

Let's demystify the hidden trap that mires parents and children in years of unnecessary frustration.

People learn in different ways. This means every child is gifted with an individual learning style. This learning style is made up of a unique mix of eight different ways of learning. No one learning style is better than any other. There are just differences in the way children prefer to learn.

There is a very high probability that your own learning style differs significantly from your child's. This isn't a problem as long as you don't insist on helping your child in the way you learn best and not in the way that your child learns best.

For example - A mother didn't want her daughter to be distracted so she insisted that her daughter went to her bedroom to do her homework. The mother herself preferred to learn on her own what is known as a Self Smart learner. However, her daughter as a People Smart learner likes to be around others when she is learning.

The mother, by assuming that her daughter learned the same way she did, was unknowingly creating a prohibitive learning environment that prevented her from doing homework and from enjoying the learning experience.

### **Leading to Learning Success Key**

Assess how your child learns best and adapt your support to use that way of learning. Doing this relieves unnecessary pressure and creates an optimized learning environment that makes learning easy and fun.

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## Leading to Learning Action Steps

Identify your own learning style. Either through readily available online quick assessments or through our Leading to Learning preferred resource.

Identify your child's learning style. or a quick and easy reference guide, think about what your child does when he or she is angry. Their reaction is indicative of their learning style. Check out our Resources page for more information.

Think about times when your child seemed confused by the help you offered. What were you doing? Were you perhaps trying to help your child in ways that you learn best rather than using ways that your child learns best?

Consider how can you adapt the way you have been helping your child to the way he or she likes to learn.

## Mistake #3 - Getting involved with your child's homework

As a parent you naturally assume the role of 'homework helper' believing that by getting involved in your child's homework you are supporting their education. You will see this as simply good parenting.

In fact, homework help is the main cause of family stress, frustration, and anger. While your support is needed, trying to 'help' with the homework tasks set for your child will most certainly lead to confusion and unhappiness for all concerned.

Important things to consider about homework:

- The homework has been set for your child.
- Homework should be based on in-class acquired concepts and given as reinforcement of the information taught.
- Intervening without following the same concepts will inevitably lead to confusion for your child.
- Homework is not useful if it is too easy, too hard, or stressful for all concerned.
- Tasks set should never take longer than 10 times your child's grade level (Child in grade 3 " homework should take about 30 minutes).

In conclusion, don't let your child, or you, get stressed about homework. Your role is to support your child in doing what he or she can do and to tell the teacher when there are problems. Whatever the cause of your child's difficulties, the best support you can provide is to let the teacher know. It is the teacher who is to ensure that your child can handle and finish the homework.

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## Leading to Learning Success Key

Homework help should consist of creating a good homework environment, setting time limits and, most importantly, sharing concerns with your child's teacher.

## Leading to Learning Action Steps

- Relax so you can offer your child a pressure free homework environment. Your relationship with your child is far more important than homework hassles.
- Find out what expectations your child's teacher has around homework:
  - How much time does he expect your child to spend doing homework?
  - How are you expected to help your child?
- Don't wait for the next parent/teacher conference, set up a time to talk to the teacher and get this information as soon as possible.
- Tell the teacher about any homework issues. Your child's teacher will not know your child is having difficulties unless you tell her.
- Set ground rules with your child around your role in homework support, her role in doing the work, and your joint commitment to letting the teacher know about any problems.

## Mistake #4 - Fixing symptoms instead of the cause

This is a very common challenge that many parents face. They see the learning challenges such as poor reading or hating math and look for some way to alleviate them. However parents often find that none of these band-aid approaches 'stick' because they do not make the fundamental shift that is needed to get to the root of the learning difficulty and unleash their child's true learning ability.

Parents may see lack of motivation and laziness as behavioural issues rather than seeing them for what they are, symptoms of learning difficulties. Only by investigating the root cause of your child's learning challenges will you be able to address behavioural issues and by identifying what is holding your child back you can move from fixing the symptom to curing your child's learning issues for long-term educational empowerment.



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## Leading to Learning Success Key

Trust that all children are naturally curious and love to learn. Therefore find a trusted system to look beyond the visible symptoms of behavioural and learning challenges. Only by getting to the root will you find a lasting remedial strategy.

## Leading to Learning Action Steps

- Remember, laziness, not trying hard enough, and lack of motivation are strong indicators of learning difficulties.
- Recognize that not reading well, not getting good marks in math, and not finishing homework with ease are all signs of a deeper learning gap that requires professional assessment.
- Realize that lasting improvement can only follow a clear diagnosis. Get to the root of the problem and then invest into the right remedial strategies.

## Mistake #5 - Guessing instead of knowing

As you have discovered through the introduction of individual learning styles under Mistake #2, learning is personal and individual to each child. Therefore turning to media or friends and family for general guidance on your child's specific learning needs is clearly non effective.

Yet, time and again parents receive unqualified advice from well-intentioned sources in their quest to get help. In effect parents guess what support their child needs. This only leads to more frustration and confusion for both parents and child.

Professional advice founded in years of training, research and experience provides valuable and comprehensive insights that help you discover exactly what support your child needs. When support is tailored to individual learning needs, learning challenges are eradicated with the least amount of stress and frustration and within the shortest time. Sometimes even within the first month.

## Leading to Learning Success Key

Stop guessing what support your child needs. Cookie-cutter approaches to the support you offer will not help you meet your child's unique learning needs. You need professional help to get the information and advice that leads to success.

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## Leading to Learning Action Steps

- Consider what learning support aids you have invested in the past 12 months. Which of these have helped your child? How?
- List two or three trusted professionals to ask for help. Possibly start with your child's classroom teacher (unless you believe they could be a part of a problem).
- Consider what will happen to your child's grades, confidence and future opportunities if you don't get to the cause of the learning challenges within in the next month, year, 3 years.
- Visualize what life will be like for your child and your family when a the love for learning is restored, homework becomes a non-issue and achievements are soaring.

## Summary

Parental support is vital to a child's success in school but parents have been ill-equipped to support children's education and turn to off-the-shelf workbooks and general learning aids which may not meet their child's unique learning needs. As a result many children are not getting the vital help they need to be successful in school. Often behavioural or other learning issues mask learning challenges which if not treated quickly result in poor performance and family stress.

By trying to support children's education in ways that do not match learning needs parents unknowingly add to, and become part of, the problem. They make these mistakes because they do not know what else to do and have not been given the right professional advice and tools.

By reading this report, you have taken the fundamental first step to finding the right help to stop your child's learning struggle, once and for all.

I hope these 5 Common Mistakes have helped assure you that you are among the majority of parents who want to help and take responsibility to find the cure to the causes of their child's learning challenges. I trust the tips will provide a helpful starting point in understanding your role and steps you can take that will ease tension and start developing a solution.

If you feel you want more insight into the causes of your child's learning struggles or you know, as only a parent can, that your child is not achieving all he or she is capable off, please contact me [patrica@leadingtolearning.com](mailto:patrica@leadingtolearning.com) to book a free consultation.

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[www.leadingtolearning.com](http://www.leadingtolearning.com)

We both know, your child's success can't wait!

Dr. Patricia Porter

## About Patricia Porter

Dr. Patricia Porter is Learning Skill Assessment Specialist and highly sought after international speaker, educator and ambassador for maximizing children's learning potential.

After a 35 year teaching career, Dr. Porter founded Leading to Learning, a company based on her proprietary Path-Finder® Program, delivering in-person and online assessment and education for children aged 4-14.

Through her programs Patricia has helped hundreds of families better understand their children's learning needs. By providing a clear strategy tailored to the individual child, parents have peace of mind that their child now has a path to reach their true learning potential.